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## Brewcats: Flying Dog IPA packs a big bite

Stephanie L. Smith | Staff Reporter | Posted: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 8:49 pm

Here is proof of the six degrees of separation theory which states everyone is connected by six or fewer people: drink a Flying Dog Raging Bitch and you are — in a strange way — connected to gonzo journalist Hunter S. Thompson by three degrees.

Flying Dog Brewery founder George Stranahan is not only an astrophysicist with a Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University and founder of the Aspen Center for Physics, but was also neighbors with Thompson in Woody Creek, Colorado.

Thompson lived at Owl Farm and Stranahan lived down the valley at the Flying Dog Ranch. The two became friends through their mutual interests of booze, weapons and politics.

Artist Ralph Steadman illustrated many of Thompson's books and articles. It was through that connection that Steadman was introduced to Stranahan and began creating original artwork for Flying Dog's labels in 1996.

Steadman's Flying Dog designs are of bizarre rabid dogs done in vibrant colors. The beer names —such as In Heat Wheat, Doggie Style and Raging Bitch—are sometimes considered offensive, and occasionally causes distribution problems for the Maryland brewery.

But, there is no issues taste-wise when downing one of these Bitches.

This Belgian-style IPA pours a deep copper, and nips at the nose with a blend of banana, clove and yeast. It takes a chomp with its intense yeastiness, making the beer more of a hoppy Tripel than an IPA.

It finishes with a bite that has just the right amount of hoppy pine bitterness and dryness. With its high 8.3 percent ABV, its bark should be vicious. But instead, the beer is smooth with its alcohol masked well, making it easy to enjoy more than one.



### Raging Bitch

New 'Raging Bitch' beer by George Stranahan's Flying Dog Brewery tastes of banana, clove and yeast.

Once you get acquainted with this Raging Bitch, check out the rest of Flying Dog's puppies as the brewery is one of the few who consistently puts out good beers.

*Brewcats is a weekly beer review column, appearing in TNR every Wednesday.*